

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An adsorbent capable of adsorbing a phosphorylated protein, the adsorbent comprising particles each having a surface, at least the surface of the particles being formed of comprising an apatite which forms at least the surface and its vicinity of the ~~adsorbent and is~~ represented by the formula $\text{Ca}_{10}(\text{PO}_4)_6((\text{OH})_{1-x}\text{A}_x)_2$, where A represents a halogen element and $0 \leq x \leq 1$, and ~~a trivalent metal ion~~ Fe^{3+} bonded to the surface of each particle through a phosphate group contained in the apatite.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The adsorbent as claimed in claim 1, wherein the amount of the trivalent metal ion to be bonded to the apatite is in the range of 0.1 to 100 mg per gram of the apatite.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The adsorbent as claimed in claim 1, wherein the A is a fluorine element.

7. (Previously Presented) The adsorbent as claimed in claim 1, wherein the "x" in the formula is in the range of 0.3 to 1.

8. (Withdrawn) An adsorption apparatus comprising a column which has an adsorbent filling space filled with the adsorbent claimed in claim 1.

9. (Withdrawn) The adsorption apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein the adsorbent filling space is substantially fully filled with the adsorbent.

10. (Withdrawn) The adsorption apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein all the adsorbent contained in the adsorbent filling space has substantially the same composition.

11. (Withdrawn) The adsorption apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein the adsorbent has a particulate form.

12. (Withdrawn) The adsorption apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the average particle size of particles of the adsorbent is in the range of 0.5 to 100 μm .

13. (Withdrawn) A method for manufacturing an adsorption apparatus, wherein a solution containing a trivalent metal ion is passed through an adsorbent filling space of a column filled with an apatite represented by the formula $\text{Ca}_{10}(\text{PO}_4)_6((\text{OH})_{1-x}\text{A}_x)_2$, where A represents a halogen element and $0 \leq x \leq 1$, so that a phosphate group contained in the apatite is bonded to the trivalent metal ion.

14. (Withdrawn) The method for manufacturing an adsorption apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the amount of the trivalent metal ion contained in 1 L of the solution is in the range of 1 to 50 mol per 1 mol of the apatite.

15. (Withdrawn) The method for manufacturing an adsorption apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the total amount of the solution containing the trivalent metal ion to be passed through the adsorbent filling space is in the range of 1 to 50 mL.

16. (Withdrawn) The method for manufacturing an adsorption apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the flow rate of the solution containing the trivalent metal ion is in the range of 0.1 to 10 mL/min.

17. (New) The adsorbent as claimed in claim 1, wherein no change occurs in the composition of the apatite due to the bonding of Fe^{3+} to the surface of the particles.